

THE CONSENT DECREE PROCESS: HOW IT WORKS

Initial Fairness Hearing

On November 22, 2011, the Court provisionally approved and entered the Second Amended Consent Decree and scheduled an Initial Fairness Hearing for **March 12, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Martin Luther King Building and United States Courthouse, 50 Walnut Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

At the Initial Fairness Hearing, the Court will consider any objections to the Decree and any responses to those objections submitted by the United States and the State. Afterwards, if the Court determines that the terms of the Decree are fair, reasonable, equitable and otherwise consistent with federal law, the Court will approve and enter the Decree as final.

Fairness Hearing on Individual Relief

After final approval and entry of the Decree, the State will send a notice to potential Claimants that the Decree has been entered and that they are considered to be preliminarily eligible for monetary relief and/or priority promotion. Along with the notice, the State will provide an interest in relief form, which potential Claimants must return to the United States to be considered for monetary relief and/or priority promotion. Upon receiving the interest in relief forms, the United States will create a relief awards list and notify potential Claimants of the United States' preliminary determination of relief awards and how to object to this preliminary determination.

After all objections have been received, the Court will conduct a Fairness Hearing on Individual Relief to decide on individual relief awards and to resolve any objections filed regarding the United States' individual relief determinations.